

§ 21.48

(d) *Duration of period of employment assistance.* The periods during which employment assistance may be provided are not subject to limitations on periods of eligibility for vocational rehabilitation provided in §§ 21.41 through 21.45 of this part, but entitlement to such assistance is, as provided in § 21.73 of this part, limited to 18 total months of assistance.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3105)

[54 FR 21215, May 17, 1989, as amended at 56 FR 15836, Apr. 18, 1991]

§ 21.48 Severance of service-connection—reduction to noncompensable degree.

When a rating action is taken which proposes severance of service-connection or reduction to a noncompensable degree, the provisions of the following paragraphs will govern the veteran's entitlement to rehabilitation and employment assistance under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31.

(a) *Applicant.* If the veteran is an applicant for rehabilitation or employment assistance when the proposed rating action is taken, all processes respecting determination of entitlement or induction into training shall be immediately suspended. In no event shall any veteran be inducted into a rehabilitation program or provided employment assistance during the interim periods provided in § 3.105 (d) and (e) of this title. If the proposed rating action becomes final, the application will be denied. See also § 21.50 as to initial evaluation.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104)

(b) *Reduction while in a rehabilitation program.* If the proposed rating action is taken while the veteran is in a rehabilitation program and results in a reduction to a noncompensable rating of his or her disability, the veteran may be retained in the program until the completion of the program, except if "discontinued" under § 21.198 he or she may not reenter.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3103)

(c) *Severance while in a rehabilitation program.* If the proposed rating action is taken while the veteran is in a rehabilitation program and results in sever-

ance of the service-connection of his or her disability, rehabilitation will be terminated effective as of the last day of the month in which severance of service-connection becomes final.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3103)

INITIAL AND EXTENDED EVALUATION

§ 21.50 Initial evaluation.

(a) *Eligibility for initial evaluation.* VA shall provide an initial evaluation to each individual who applies for benefits under chapter 31 if the individual's compensable service-connected disability meets one of the conditions contained in § 21.40(a).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3102(1), Pub. L. 101-508)

(b) *Purpose.* An initial evaluation will be provided to each individual who meets the conditions of paragraph (a) of this section to:

(1) Determine the existence of an employment handicap;

(2) Determine the basic twelve-year period of eligibility;

(3) Determine whether an employment handicap shall be considered a serious employment handicap;

(4) Determine whether the basic twelve-year period of eligibility is extended for a veteran with a serious employment handicap;

(5) Determine as expeditiously as possible, without extended evaluation, whether achievement of a vocational goal is currently reasonably feasible.

(6) Evaluate the ability of the veteran to live and function independently within the veteran's family and community;

(7) Determine if the veteran is eligible for employment services under § 21.47;

(8) Develop information necessary to plan an individual program for a veteran found eligible and entitled to services under Chapter 31; and

(9) Assist a veteran who is found ineligible for assistance under Chapter 31 to identify other resources and programs for which he or she may be eligible.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 523, 3106(a), (d), 3116)